

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

The present invention is drawn to a method of controlling gene expression in plants. Specifically, the method comprises obtaining a transgenic plant comprising at least two receptor expression cassettes and at least one target expression cassette. The first receptor expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence for a 5' regulatory region operably linked to a nucleotide sequence which encodes a first receptor polypeptide, and a 3' termination region. The second receptor expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence for a 5' regulatory region operably linked to a nucleotide sequence which encodes a second receptor polypeptide, and a 3' termination region. The target expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence for a 5' regulatory region operably linked to a nucleotide sequence which encodes a target polypeptide, and a 3' termination region, wherein the 5' regulatory region of (~~said~~) **the** target expression cassette is activated by (~~said~~) **the** first and second receptor polypeptides in the presence of one or more chemical ligands which are complementary to the ligand binding domain of (~~said~~) **the** receptor polypeptides, whereby expression of (~~said~~) **the** target polypeptide is accomplished. The method is useful for controlling various traits of agronomic importance, such as plant fertility.